

Date

Hospital Administrator  
Happy Hospital  
155 Librarian Way  
Librarian, WI 53201

Dear Hospital Administrator:

October is National Medical Librarians Month and we want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued investment in providing your care community with the latest health information resources. As a member of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM), your library is part of a vast network of information providers that assures timely access to information needed to make sound decisions in hospital management and patient care.

Today, patients expect their physicians to have easy access to quality medical information. Research studies suggest professionally led library services have a positive impact on health outcomes for patients and may lead to time savings for health care professionals. (1) When MEDLINE searches are conducted early in hospitalization, hospital costs, charges and lengths of stay are significantly lower than those whose searches are conducted later. (2) Information provided by librarians decreases unnecessary diagnostic tests, affects treatment decisions, and improves patient care. (3,4)

As a member of NN/LM, your library can also develop new sources of funding through awards and subcontracts. The Greater Midwest Region of NN/LM has funded 62 awards and subcontracts to hospital and clinical care libraries since 2001, totaling more than \$423,000. These awards have funded a wide array of technology improvements and outreach projects that have enabled the recipient hospital library to provide service enhancements that might otherwise not have been possible.

The National Network of Libraries of Medicine would like to congratulate you on continuing to support your librarian and library. Please contact us if you have questions about your library's role in the National Network.

Sincerely,

Carol Scherrer, MLS  
Director, National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Greater Midwest Region

1. Weightman, AL and Williamson, J. The value and impact of information provided through library services for patient care: a systematic review. *Health Inform Libr J*, 2005, March; 22(1): 4-25.
2. Klein, MS et al. Effect of online literature searching on length of stay and patient-care costs. *Acad Med* 1994; 69(6):489-95.
3. Cuddy, TM. Value of hospital libraries: the Fuld Campus study. *J Med Libr Assoc* 2005; 93(4):446-9.
4. Marshall, JG. The impact of the hospital library on clinical decision-making: The Rochester Study. *Bull Med Libr Assoc* 1992; 80(2):169-78.